

# Classification of Asthma Severity: Clinical Features Before Treatment

Components of Severity		Classification of Asthma Severity (0–4 years of age)			
		Intermittent	Persistent		
	Mild		Moderate	Severe	
Impairment	Symptoms	≤2 days/week	>2 days/week but not daily	Daily	Throughout the day
	Nighttime awakenings	0	1–2x/month	3–4x/month	>1x/week
	Short-acting beta <sub>2</sub> -agonist use for symptom control (not prevention of EIB)	≤2 days/week	>2 days/week but not daily	Daily	Several times per day
	Interference with normal activity	None	Minor limitation	Some limitation	Extremely limited
Risk	Exacerbations (consider frequency and severity)	≥2 exacerbations in 6 months requiring oral steroids, or ≥4 wheezing episodes/1 year lasting >1 day AND risk factors for persistent asthma			
		Frequency and severity may fluctuate over time			
Recommended Step for Initiating Therapy		Step 1	Step 2	Step 3 and consider short course of systemic oral corticosteroids	
(See figure 4-1a for treatment steps.)		In 2–6 weeks, depending on severity, evaluate level of asthma control that is achieved. If no clear benefit is observed in 4–6 weeks, consider adjusting therapy or alternative diagnoses.			

# Classification of Asthma Severity: Clinical Features Before Treatment

Components of Severity		Classification of Asthma Severity (5–11 years of age)			
		Intermittent	Mild	Persistent	
Impairment	Symptoms	$\leq 2$ days/week	$>2$ days/week but not daily	Daily	Throughout the day
	Nighttime awakenings	$\leq 2$ x/month	3–4x/month	$>1$ x/week but not nightly	Often 7x/week
	Short-acting $\beta_2$ -agonist use for symptom control (not prevention of EIB)	$\leq 2$ days/week	$>2$ days/week but not daily	Daily	Several times per day
	Interference with normal activity	None	Minor limitation	Some limitation	Extremely limited
	Lung function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Normal <math>FEV_1</math> between exacerbations</li> <li>• <math>FEV_1 &gt; 80\%</math> predicted</li> <li>• <math>FEV_1/FVC &gt; 85\%</math></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>FEV_1 = &gt; 80\%</math> predicted</li> <li>• <math>FEV_1/FVC &gt; 80\%</math></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>FEV_1 = 60–80\%</math> predicted</li> <li>• <math>FEV_1/FVC = 75–80\%</math></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>FEV_1 &lt; 60\%</math> predicted</li> <li>• <math>FEV_1/FVC &lt; 75\%</math></li> </ul>
Risk	Exacerbations (consider frequency and severity)	<div> <div>0–2/year</div> <div><math>&gt;2</math> in 1 year</div> <div>Frequency and severity may fluctuate over time for patients in any severity category</div> <div>Relative annual risk of exacerbations may be related to <math>FEV_1</math></div> </div>			
Recommended Step for Initiating Therapy  (See figure 4-1b for treatment steps.)		<div>Step 1</div> <div>Step 2</div> <div>In 2–6 weeks, evaluate level of asthma control that is achieved, and adjust therapy accordingly.</div>		<div>Step 3, medium-dose ICS option</div> <div>Step 3, medium-dose ICS option, or step 4</div> <div>and consider short course of systemic oral corticosteroids</div>	

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Components of Severity		Classification of Asthma Severity ≥12 years of age			
		Intermittent	Persistent		
	Mild		Moderate	Severe	
<b>Impairment</b>  Normal FEV <sub>1</sub> /FVC: 8–19 yr 85% 20–39 yr 80% 40–59 yr 75% 60–80 yr 70%	Symptoms	≤2 days/week	>2 days/week but not daily	Daily	Throughout the day
	Nighttime awakenings	≤2x/month	3–4x/month	>1x/week but not nightly	Often 7x/week
	Short-acting beta <sub>2</sub> -agonist use for symptom control (not prevention of EIB)	≤2 days/week	>2 days/week but not > 1x/day	Daily	Several times per day
	Interference with normal activity	None	Minor limitation	Some limitation	Extremely limited
	Lung function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Normal FEV<sub>1</sub> between exacerbations</li><li>• FEV<sub>1</sub> &gt;80% predicted</li><li>• FEV<sub>1</sub>/FVC normal</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FEV<sub>1</sub> &gt;80% predicted</li><li>• FEV<sub>1</sub>/FVC normal</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FEV<sub>1</sub> &gt;60% but &lt;80% predicted</li><li>• FEV<sub>1</sub>/FVC reduced 5%</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FEV<sub>1</sub> &lt;60% predicted</li><li>• FEV<sub>1</sub>/FVC reduced &gt;5%</li></ul>
<b>Risk</b>	Exacerbations (consider frequency and severity)	<div>0–2/year &gt;2/year</div> <div>Frequency and severity may fluctuate over time for patients in any severity category</div> <div>Relative annual risk of exacerbations may be related to FEV<sub>1</sub></div>			
<b>Recommended Step for Initiating Treatment</b>  (See figure 4–5 for treatment steps)		Step 1	Step 2	Step 3 and consider short course of systemic oral corticosteroids	Step 4 or 5
		In 2–6 weeks, evaluate level of asthma control that is achieved and adjust therapy accordingly.			